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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Asia-Japan Women's Resource Center (Special; 2000)

Part I: Introduction

The Asia-Japan Women's Resource Center (AJWRC) was founded in 1995 with the aims of ending all forms of violence and discrimination against women, promoting human rights and social justice, and empowering women. In order to achieve these goals, AJWRC works with the following three programs: (i) Information Sharing and Networking: publishing a quarterly journal in Japanese and a biannual English journal, production of educational materials, disseminating information through internet, and providing for a women's information reference service; (ii) Training and Education: Organizing seminars and workshops on various gender issues, providing lectures and training programs, and organizing study tours; and (iii) Advocacy and Campaign: Monitoring cases and policies that may affect women's rights, running ad-hoc and long-term campaigns, conducting research and surveys, and participating in policy dialogue with governments and international bodies.

Part II: Contribution of AJWRC to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and other major United Nations meetings: (i) Ten-Year-Review and Appraisal of the Beijing Platform of Action (BPFA) and the Beijing+5 (2004-2005). AJWRC actively participated in national, regional and global women's NGO efforts against renegotiation of the internationally agreed goals and to urge Member States to reaffirm their commitment to the BPFA. AJWRC's activities in this regard include: preparation of a Japanese women's NGO joint review report, especially on the issue of Armed Conflicts and Women; participation in the Asia-Pacific NGO Forum, 6-9 September 2004, Bangkok, Thailand, to prepare regional NGO documents and to organize a workshop on remedies for victims of sexual violence under conflicts; sending Japanese and Asia-Pacific NGO letters to urge governments to fully reaffirm the BPFA; and participation and lobbying at the 52nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 18 February–11 March 2005, United Nations headquarters New York, where AJWRC representative participated in Peace Caucus and made an oral intervention; (ii) 56th session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, 26 July – 13 August 2004, Geneva, Switzerland. AJWRC representatives attended to present a written statement and to make oral statements on the issue of the Japanese military sexual slavery during the World War II; (iii) 61st Session of the Commission on Human Rights, 14 March – 22 April 2005, Geneva, Switzerland. AJWRC representatives attended to make oral statements on the issues of the Japanese military sexual slavery, and the right to education; (iv) 38th Session of the Committee Against Torture, 30 April – 18-May 2007, Geneva, Switzerland. AJWRC coordinated submission of the first Japanese NGO report on violation of women's rights with support of the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), and attended the session for lobbying. AJWRC further urged the Japanese Government to follow-up on the recommendations made by the Committee by sending a letter that was co-signed by 26 organizations and 112 individuals; (v) AJWRC also jointly submitted an NGO letter to urge the Japanese government to reaffirm its commitment to the promotion of reproductive health/rights in its statement in the "World Summit 2005" in August 2005, and an NGO statement on the report on Japan by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Racism in September 2006.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

AJWRC has received no information of opportunity of cooperation with the United Nations bodies.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by AJWRC in support of internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women: (i) **Elimination of Violence Against Women**. AJWRC organized campaigns on sexual violence cases by American soldiers stationed in military bases in Asia, including: (a) support to a court case on rape against a Filipino woman in Subic, the Philippines, through coordinating a Japan solidarity network to make financial contributions, launch a Japanese campaign site (August 2006), publish statements (December 2005, September and December 2006), make solidarity visits (July and December 2006) and international petition campaign (October 2006); (b) campaign on rape case against an Australian woman in Yokosuka, Japan, through attending court hearings, organizing a public event (December 2007) and disseminating information; and (c) protest campaign against impunity of gang rape against a Japanese woman in Hiroshima, Japan (November 2007). AJWRC also organized symposia and seminars on violence against women in conflict areas and post-conflict situations in Bangladesh (November 2007), Indonesia (December 2005), Cambodia (November 2005 and January 2006), Korean Peninsula (October 2006 and March 2007), Nepal (September 2005), and Iraq (April and September 2005), while joining in national and international campaigns on the Japanese military sexual slavery. Other relevant activities include: publishing a Japanese translation of a report prepared by Shan Women's Network on sexual violence against ethnic minority women by Myanmar junta (March 2004), organizing a campaign on the sexual violence case in the Japanese Self Defence Force (May 2007), and co-hosting the Japan- Korea Symposium on Women's Human Rights (5 June 2004). AJWRC also sent letters on various cases of violence against women to the relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran (March and July 2007), Myanmar (March 2007), the Sudan (March 2007), and Thailand (October 2007). AJWRC also took part in the Japan Network Against Trafficking in Persons (JNATIP) in lobbying and educational activities as the Japanese Government prepared the National Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons in December 2004; (ii) **Promotion of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women**: AJWRC launched a campaign in June 2004 against the attempted revision of the Japanese Constitution Article on women's rights in family with participation of 79 other organizations. Some of major activities include: Petition campaign, Press statements (October 2004, May, August and November 2005, June 2006), symposia (November 2004, March and April, August, September and November 2005), seminars in various places, publishing booklets (June 2005, January and May 2006) and lobbying, which successfully resulted in having the ruling party withdraw its attempt. AJWRC also monitored and intervened in governmental and local administrations gender equality policies by taking part in policy dialogues and organizing petition campaigns with other women's groups. Other relevant activities include: a campaign against legal discrimination against children out of wedlock (April 2005), a campaign for women's voice in elections (January 2004-July 2005), a seminar series on gender and development (October 2005– February 2006), a series workshops to counter setback in gender equality programs (April– December 2006), training workshops for women activists on various issues such as better information dissemination (October–

December 2005), developing better leadership (September- December 2007) and the United Nations and women's rights (September–December 2007). Also in its journal AJWRC featured issues such as women and elections (April 2004), Beijing+10 Review (November 2004), trafficking in persons (February 2005), women and disasters (May 2005), social security (August 2005), gender budget (November 2005), women and media (March 2006), right to health (June 2006), neoliberal restructuring (August 2006), security politics (November 2006), refugees (June 2007), migrant workers (August 2007) and women with disabilities (November 2007); (iii) **Promotion of Reproductive Health/Rights**: AJWRC organized a seminar and issued a publication on HIV/AIDS and women's human rights (July 2004), organized a seminar series on globalization of care and gender (April–December 2007), and a campaign against the policy to counter birth-rate-decline that violates women's reproductive rights (January 2007); (iv) **Other activities related to elimination of racial discrimination and promotion of political and civil rights**: AJWRC issued a statement demanding peaceful solution of the conflict in the Korean Peninsula and accusing attack against ethnic Koreans (October 2006), and a statement protesting against crackdown on demonstrations and killing of a journalist in Myanmar (October 2007), while participating in NGO joint campaigns against racism.

2. Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Production of the Argentine Republic (Special; 1996)

1) Aims, purposes and main course of action of the organization

Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Production of the Argentine (CACIPRA) fosters the spirit of Partnership among the members of the Argentine Republic's commerce, industry and production sectors in general; and furnish all means within reach to defend the general interests of these sectors. Contribute to improving the quality of commerce, industry and production of primary and manufactured goods by taking the necessary steps before public authorities and private entities to achieve the enactment and/or repeal of any law, resolution, or ordinance, and by encouraging complaints against measures that affect the interests or stability of the members of CACIPRA. Propose the creation of different legal rules and/or the total or partial amendment of existing ones with the purpose of favouring the welfare of the Institution's members and of the Argentine nation. Set up a library of general interest and specialized in economic and financial matters. Issue periodical publications specialized in foreign trade that provide an outlook on the laws, executive orders, commercial agreements and any other relevant national or foreign updated information. Foster commercial, cultural and tourist exchange pursuant to the provisions of Sections 29 and 30 of Executive Order No. 2182/72 issued by the Argentine National Tourism Authority; and exchange actions, plans and programmes with different official and private agencies, and with other countries. Certify any documentation pertaining to imports and exports of any kind of primary, manufactured and industrialized goods as authorized or required by the national or foreign authorities pursuant to applicable regulations. Create and maintain general advisory services essential to and in the best interest of the Institution's members and of the Argentine nation. Organize and participate in congresses, conventions and/or official and private meetings dealing with matters of interest for the Institution or for the benefit of its members, as well as suggest to the national, provincial and

municipal authorities, or to international agencies, subjects related to the purpose of the Institution or of interest to its members. Set up new and/or participate in existing foundations, make agreements with official and/or private agencies, or establish connections with other legal agencies or institutions in pursuance of their institutional purposes. Create Committees and Subcommittees based on the areas of specialization of the Institution's members. Set up a General CACIPRA Arbitral Tribunal to intervene in any dispute related to conflicts and controversies arising from commercial, industrial and other similar activities. Act as mediator under the terms of the legal regulations governing alternative dispute resolution procedures by creating a specialized Department for this purpose. Organize courses, conferences, seminars, research departments, courses of study and education institutions at all levels aimed to develop the necessary human resources for the development of the nation. Further and uphold through specific actions the principles enshrined in the Argentine National Constitution, in the Charter of the United Nations, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as in other national and international instruments aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination; promoting the right to sustainable development in the economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields; protecting and conserving natural resources and the environment, and improving life quality.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations Meetings

CACIPRA promoted the United Nations aims and programmes through its Newsletters: (i) **2004** 57th Annual Department of Public Information (DPI)/NGO Conference (October-December); International Year of Rice and International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition (8-10 September), United Nations headquarters New York; (ii) **2005** 43rd session of the Commission for Social Development (9-18 February), United Nations headquarters New York; Second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society held in Tunis, (16-18 November), and the United Nations Development Forum on "Integrating Economic and Social Policies to Achieve the United Nations Development Agenda," (14-15 March), United Nations headquarters New York; 58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, (7-9 September), United Nations headquarters New York; Economic and Social Council High-level Segment-CACIPRA Economic and Social Council (4 April); 60th Anniversary of the United Nations. 2005 Agenda for Peace: The Last Hope for Humanity. Declaration of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014; International Year of Microcredit (January-February and December); (iii) **2006** A paper on the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, prepared by one of the United Nations Development Programme –Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNDP-FAO) Consultants working at our institution, was published (April-May and June-August); November-December 2006 article on the United Nations Global Pact – Corporate Social Responsibility; (iv) **2007** International Polar Year-Eco Polar Ushuaia 06 (April-May and June-August); Publication of the DPI (April-July) The public voice of the United Nations worldwide; 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference (5-7 September), United Nations headquarters New York; United Nations Day Celebration (November-December).

CACIPRA representatives participated in the following events: (i) United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) International Photographic Competition on the Environment, "Focus on Your

World, 2004-2005," held at the United Nations Information Centre in Buenos Aires; (ii) 58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, entitled "Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal," held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, 7-9 September 2005 and circulated the conclusions of the Conference; (iii) 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference held in New York on 5-7 September 2007 was attended by CACIPRA's President and Representative. CACIPRA participated in the United Nations Day Celebration held at the United Nations head office in Buenos Aires.

3) **Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in field and/or at Headquarters**:

The students of CACIPRA's Higher Education Institute prepared papers on the following subjects: (i) 2004: International Year of Rice and International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition; (ii) 2005: International Year of Micro credit; (iii) 2006: International Year of Deserts and Desertification; (iv) 2007: International Polar Year. Copies were made of the best papers submitted and were forwarded to United Nations Argentine agencies.

3. The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (Special; 2004)

PART I - Introduction:

The official establishment and institutional structure of the IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, whose preliminary foundation was laid by a group of charitable people to extend humanitarian aid to Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992 during the war years, was completed in 1995. The IHH aims to reach every region hit by wars, disasters, poverty and human rights abuses, and believes that civilian initiatives play a complementary role beside intervention by states and international organizations in resolving humanitarian problems. Wherever he or she is distressed, victimized by war, disaster, and etc, wounded, disabled, made homeless, subjected to famine, and oppressed, it is the IHH's main objective to deliver humanitarian aid to all people and take necessary steps to prevent any violations against their basic rights and liberties. The IHH primarily delivers foodstuffs, clothes and tents to crisis regions hit by wars, conflicts, and natural disaster to meet urgent needs of victims. The foundation further provides health services in drought and aridity-stricken regions where poverty and deprivation have become chronic, and carries out long-term projects that aim at enabling local peoples stand on their own feet. In this regard, vocational training programs are organized for families; orphanages are provided with necessary services; health services such as maternal wards and mobile clinics as well as educational services such as setting up research and computer centers are provided. The IHH was awarded by the Turkish Parliament with "the Parliament Award of Honour" and was chosen by the Turkish General Directorate of Foundations as "the foundation that uses its resources in the most efficient way." Having worked incessantly since founded, the IHH will continue to take charity to everywhere.

PART II - Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations:

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings:

2006: Our representative attended the 44th Session of the Commission for Social Development, 8-17 February 2006, United Nations headquarters, New York and contributed to the panel discussion for the eradication of poverty (1997-2006).

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

2005: Bursa, Turkey, 28-29 September 2005, The High Level Consultation and Workshop on Capacity-Building for the United Nations-Non-governmental Organization Informal Regional Network in Turkey (UN-NGO-IRENE/Turkey), organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO Section and the Federation of Balkan Turks & Associations for Emigrants (BGF Federation).

2006: World Refugee Day Programs with the cooperation of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 20 June 2006 in Istanbul, Turkey. We organized a photo exhibition about refugees.

2007: Our representative attended the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)'s meeting about improving conditions of refugees in Turkey, at Center of International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), Turkey.

2007: Our representative attended preparations of Refugee Day Programs, Helsinki Citizens Assembly, Istanbul, Turkey.

iii) Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: Target 1: Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day: (i) Emergency food aids were delivered to Pakistan, Indonesia, Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Jordan, Somalia, Niger, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and the Sudan = 5,000,000; (ii) Houses were built for poor and needy people = 1,000; (iii) Orphan care program were carried out = 10,000; **Target 2: Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger**: (i) Food packages were distributed in more than hundred countries = 10,000,000; (ii) Clothes were distributed in more than 30 countries = 500,000; (iii) Qurbani meat were distributed in 111 countries and regions = 4,000,000

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education: Target 3: Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling: (i) Schools were built (Burkina Faso 1, Pakistan 4, Palestine 5, Bangladesh 1, Bosnia and Herzegovina 1, Mongolia 1, Lebanon 1, Sudan 1, Afghanistan 1) = 5,000; (ii) School were renovated (Pakistan 1, Mongolia 1, Afghanistan 13) = 3,000; (iii) Students were supported by scholarships = 1,000; (iv) Stationery packages were distributed in fifty countries;

(v) Libraries were established and conducted = 5,000; (vi) Orphanage complexes were built and conducted (Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar) = 6,000.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women: Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015: (i) Skill Education Institute was established for widows in Somali = 1,000

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality: Target 5: Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five: (i) Children treatment unit was constructed for Khair Hospital, Palestine = 5,000

Goal 5: Improve maternal health. Target 6: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio: (i) Delivery rooms were built (Iraq 1, Niger 1, Burkina Faso 1) = 5,000; (ii) Hospitals and polyclinics were built (Palestine 2, Iraq 1, Lebanon 1, Pakistan 1) = 1,000

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases: Target 7: Halt and begin to reverse the spread of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome HIV/AIDS: (i) Conferences were organized on AIDS in Ghana = 1,000; (ii) Cholera treatments for victims of flood in Pakistan = 1,000. **Target 8: Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases**: (i) Cataract surgeries were performed and eye diseases were treated (Sudan, Benin, Chad, Ghana, Niger, Pakistan, Togo, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Myanmar) = 30,000

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability: Target 10: Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water: (i) Water wells were opened (Ethiopia, Somalia, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq, Chad, Guinea, Sudan, Niger) = 2,000,000; (ii) Water canals were opened in Niger = 13,000; (iii) Waterworks were established in Palestine = 25,000

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development: Target 13: Address the special needs of the least developed countries: (i) Cultural centers were built (Ethiopia 2, Somalia 4, Lebanon 2, Palestine 3, Albania 1, Cameroon 2, Sudan 1, Pakistan 1, Afghanistan 4, Jordan 1, Kosovo 1, Bosnia and Herzegovina 1 = 50,000; (ii) Farmers were sponsored by donating animals (Niger, Bosnia) = 2,500; (iii) Different seeds were distributed to farmers in Lebanon = 1,000. **Target 16: In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth**: (i) Skill education courses were organized (Palestine, Jordan, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Georgia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mongolia) = 10,000; (ii) Seminars in different subjects were given = 4,500. **Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications**: (i) Computer laps were established in school. (Palestine 1, Niger 1, Bangladesh 1, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 1, Albania 1, Jordan 10) = 10,000; (ii) Chemistry laps were opened (Niger 1) = 2,000; (iii) TV station opened in Kosovo = 1,500,000; (iv) Radio station was opened in Madagascar = 10,000

4. Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (Special; 2000)

Part 1: Introduction

1. The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) is an independent Palestinian human rights organization and non-profit company based in Gaza city. PCHR was established in 1995 by a group of Palestinian lawyers and human rights activists, in order to (i) protect human rights, and promote the rule of law in accordance with international standards, (ii) create and develop democratic institutions and an active civil society, while promoting democratic culture within Palestinian society, and (iii) support all efforts aimed at enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights with respect to self-determination and independence in accordance with international law and UN resolutions. In the fulfilment of its mandate, PCHR provides *pro bono* legal assistance and representation, engages in international advocacy, and contributes to an understanding of the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) through the preparation of numerous reports and position papers.

2. On 6 October 2005, PCHR was accepted as an organizational member of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC). In addition, in March 2007, the Centre became a member of the International Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

Part II. Contribution of the Organization to the Work of the United Nations

1) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

2) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

PCHR's mandate is fully consistent with the principles and purposes of the United Nations, particularly as these relate to 'encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms'. PCHR actively participates in the appropriate intergovernmental fora as extensively as possible. However, the closure regime imposed on the Gaza Strip by Israeli authorities is very restrictive in this regard. Consequently, PCHR primarily advances the work of the United Nations via its widespread work in the OPT. The Centre's documentation serves as a principal point of reference, both for organisations of the United Nations – such as, *inter alia*, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – and other international human rights organisations, such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. Through the provision of extensive and credible documentation and reporting, PCHR attempts to circumvent the closure regime, and advance the protections extended to the civilian population of the OPT.

This report covers four areas of PCHR's work as it relates to ECOSOC's mandate: (i) the provision of pro bono legal aid, (ii) documentation and reporting, (iii) international advocacy, and (iv) training. Only those issues specifically relating to Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) will be

detailed herein, consequently the presented data only represents a fraction of PCHR's total work in the pursuit of its mandate, and the promotion of human rights.

(i) Legal Aid

Throughout the reporting period, PCHR extended extensive pro bono legal aid and representation to its clients. Numerous cases, pertaining to issues of personal status and family law, were taken before the domestic shari'a court system. Many of these cases relate to instances of institutionalized gender-based discrimination. PCHR also pursues criminal cases before the Israeli courts. Only those cases concerning ECOSOC-mandated issues – such as, inter alia, restrictions on freedom of movement, house demolitions, destruction of property, confiscation of land, and attacks on fishermen – will be discussed herein.

In 2004, 321 cases were taken before the shari'a court system, while 696 criminal cases were pursued before Israeli courts. In 2005, 452 cases were taken before the shari'a court system, while 655 criminal cases were pursued before Israeli courts. In 2006, 596 cases were taken before the shari'a courts, and 213 criminal cases were pursued Israeli courts. In 2007, 547 cases were taken before the shari'a court system, and 217 criminal cases were pursued before Israeli courts. Over the reporting period, free legal advice was extended to countless individuals.

(ii) Documentation and Reporting

In order to provide detailed information relating to the human rights situation in the OPT, PCHR carries out extensive documentation and reporting related to civil and political rights as well as social, economic and cultural rights. Each year, specific reports are prepared on issues pertinent to the ECOSOC and UN wide mandates, including both annual and periodic reports: for example, reports on: 'the impact of the Israeli closure of the Gaza Strip on Economic Social and Cultural Rights' and 'Israeli violations of the right of Palestinians to Worship Freely'.

In 2004, 21 in-depth reports were published in addition to 17 ESCR-related press statements and field workers investigated 4,130 cases relating to ESCR violations. In 2005, 13 specific in-depth reports, and 17 ESCR press statements were released, while field workers investigated 47 ESCR-related cases. In 2006, 24 in-depth reports were released, as well as 20 ESCR-related press releases, field workers documented, *inter alia*, 934 house demolitions, and the razing of 4,419 donumms[1] of agricultural land. In 2007, 14 in-depth reports were released, in addition to 30 ESCR-related press releases and PCHR field workers documented, *inter alia*, 131 house demolitions and the razing of 1190 donumms of agricultural land.

(iii) International and regional advocacy

PCHR contributes widely to human rights based advocacy -despite the difficulties of movement and access to and from the Gaza Strip -both via participation in international and regional conferences and meetings, and in receiving international and regional delegations. In the reporting period, PCHR

[1] A donumm is a measurement of 1,000 square metres.

representatives attended 106 international meetings, including specific delegations to France and the United Kingdom in 2004 and the UN Conference of NGOs in Palestine in 2006. In the reporting period PCHR received 134 delegations; including Pierre Sane Assistant Director of the General Social and Human Sciences Sector at UNESCO, Costanza Farina, Head of Office at UNESCO in 2004, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the Situation of Human Rights in the OPT in 2004, 2005, 2006, and the Head of Regional Political Affairs of UNESCO and the Head of UN OHCHR in 2007. From 2004-2005 PCHR made 14 interventions, and joint interventions, to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and ECOSOC, on topics such as the integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective, and the rights of the child. In 2006, the international unit produced an intervention to the United Nations on the deliberate destruction of Palestinian infrastructure and massive escalation of human rights violations in the Gaza Strip as well as an intervention to the United Nations General Assembly on the construction of the separation barrier in the West Bank, and an intervention to the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights. In addition, PCHR Director Raji Sourani attended ECOSOC sessions in Geneva 7/8 September 2006, and PCHR staff member Eoin Murray attended ECOSOC sessions on 8/9 March 2005.

3) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

(iv) Training

The outreach, education and training undertaken by PCHR contributed to the protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. During the reporting period (2004-2007) PCHR conducted 76 training sessions with a broad range of participants; including human rights courses for school staff members, female police, women's rights activists, young lawyers, and medical professionals, NGOs, and human rights observers. Responding to MDG 3 (promoting gender equality and empower women) PCHR monitored female participants in trainings; in 2007, out of a total of 482 trainees, 54.6% were Palestinian women. Also responding to MDG 3, the women's unit organized lectures on the rights of women and children – 407 in the reporting period – and several workshops on legal protection mechanisms for victims of violence against women, women and political participation and women and the law. In 2007 the training unit organized 14 lectures, targeting 300 individuals, on the rights ensured by human rights law, including the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The women's unit and training unit carried out its activities in cooperation and coordination with a number of United Nations agencies, including, *inter alia*, OHCHR, UNRWA and UNIFEM.

5. Volontari nel Mondo (Special; 2004)

Part 1 - Introduction:

Volontari nel mondo (FOCSIV) is a Federation of 61 Christians Organisations of International Voluntary Services which is committed to promote social justice, solidarity, international understanding and development co-operation. FOCSIV's aim is to raise awareness on problems related to deprivation and social injustice, assert human dignity, fight against hunger and poverty,

further a culture of peace and non-violence, and promote social and economic development in poor countries. The Federation works daily in project activities on the field as well as in international, national or local actions in order to improve the commitment of people all over the world in the fight against poverty and social injustice.

The Federation Volontari nel mondo – FOCSIV would have performed much better in the implementation of United Nations programmes but its activities are limited by scarce resources. It is mainly involved in the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations activities because of its headquarters is in Rome and the Federation's involvement in trade and agriculture issues.

i. Aims, purposes and main course of action of the organization:

In order to achieve and fulfil these commitments, FOCSIV is involved in different activities: (i) **Development projects**: Over the past 35 years, more than 15,000 Italian volunteers have been in the field on a long and short-term basis, offering their care support and professional skills in FOCSIV projects. In 2007, FOCSIV had 647 volunteers in 77 countries, with 766 development interventions that benefited 42 million people. FOCSIV is firmly convinced that concrete and long-term efforts, such as those made by our voluntary workers, can contribute step by step to the emancipation of every human beings, through real and fruitful exchanges between peoples, building bridges of solidarity between poor and rich countries; (ii) **Voluntary service and training**: "InformarVi" is the information desk of FOCSIV, which was created for those who are just discovering the International Voluntary Service for the first time. The desk offers information on training courses and concrete possibilities and opportunities to be engaged abroad, through international voluntary service, voluntary civilian service, work camps, responsible travel tours, and the United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV), FOCSIV is the UNV - Focal Point for Italy since 1997. Besides, the Voluntary service and Training Office in collaboration with the Development project office defines the projects involving civilian service volunteers, selects and recruits volunteer candidates, organises training courses, and monitors related volunteer activities in the field; (iii) **Campaigns, public awareness and development education**: On a parallel basis, the Federation promotes sensibility and development education campaigns in Italy as powerful multiplier of international solidarity, focusing on United Nations inputs or following the main international meetings.

Some of the most important campaigns and events launched in the last years (2004-2007): (i) In 2002 FOCSIV, in collaboration with other Non Governmental Organisations, launched the "**No dumping**" campaign to abolish the subsidy to the exports and to affirm food sovereignty in developing countries. The main tool of the campaign was an online postcard calling on government representatives and European Union Institutions to design and adopt policies aimed to half extreme poverty and hunger within 2015. Besides, during 4 years (2002-2005) FOCSIV staff travelled along Italy holding seminars and meetings and delivering posters, cards, publications and booklets. In 2005, FOCSIV collected more than 50,000 signatures and the online adhesion of 3,238 campaign supporters. The campaign concluded with 80,000 postcards sent to the Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi and the former European Commissioner for Trade, Pascal Lamy; (ii) In 2007, FOCSIV participated at the Cooperation Internationale pour le Developpement et la solidarite (CIDSE)-Caritas Internationalis joint campaign "**Make Aid Work, The World Can't Wait**". The mass mobilisation urged the world's

most powerful leaders to keep promises made at the G8 Summit in United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Gleneagles, 6–8 July 2005) at the G8 summit in Germany (Heiligendamm, 6-8 July 2007). At national level, the campaign was carried out in collaboration with the major Italian catholic associations. The important event of the campaign was the "Bishops Tour". A tour in which Catholic Church leaders from both developed and developing countries met with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, and Pope Benedict XVI; (iii) **Advocacy and lobbying**: Finally, the Federation carried out lobbying activities within national and international institutions. At national level FOCSIV has carried out activities to call on Parliament and Government, in particular on Prime Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry Policy. At international level, FOCSIV has consolidated its relations both with the European Union and the European Parliament by a constant dialogue with Development Directorate-General and Youth Directorate-General.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

Volontari nel mondo- FOCSIV also strengthened the relations with the United Nations by continuing its work within the United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV) and taking part in the important international meetings: (i) **The High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development** (United Nations Headquarters, New York, 23-25 October 2007). FOCSIV attended and lobbied for a final declaration including indications in order to uphold the Monterrey Consensus of 2002. This FOCSIV lobbying action found its basis in the document "From Monterrey to Doha: the way forward" submitted by the following NGOs in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council: Caritas Internationalis and International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE). On the 22 October 2007 FOCSIV Director General attended the Informal hearings of Civil Society on financing for development and the overall theme was "Civil society participation on the status of implementation of the Monterrey consensus and Task Ahead". This meeting took place at the United Nations headquarters, too. CIDSE and South Centre co-organised a panel event "Selected issues on Financing for Development: South–North Capital Flows and the search for Innovative Sources of Finance" and the FOCSIV Director General took part with an official speech titled "The unfinished agenda on taxation and innovative sources of finance and financing for development"; (ii) **G8 Summits** (8-10 June 2004, Sea Island, United States of America; 6–8 July 2005, Gleneagles, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; 15–16 July 2006, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation; 6-8 June 2007, Heiligendamm, Germany). The Director General of the Federation took part at these meeting, actively involved in the civil society forums organised every year during the G8 Summits in the host country; (iii) **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO):** FOCSIV participated in the FAO governing bodies regular meetings as a social actor within the International Non Governmental Organisations/Civil Society Organisations Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty and sometime as an observer representing CIDSE that is in Liaison Status with the FAO. FOCSIV participation is regulated by an accreditation process that is necessary for every FAO meeting. FAO Special Forum (18–20 September 2006, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy): On occasion of this special high level meeting, focused on trade and agriculture issues and their impacts on development, FOCSIV was an active actor in the organisation of a civil society mobilisation "We

must fight hunger". One month long mobilisation action was organised, with the involvement of more than 200 civil society organisations, in order to diffuse the principle of food sovereignty that would be accomplished all over the world.

iii. Other Conferences, Meetings and Events.

The World Social Forum: (26-31 January 2005, Porto Alegre, Brazil, and 20-25 January 2007, Nairobi, Kenya). Representatives attended meeting related to the main theme "Another world is possible" and in order to contribute to build strong alliances between different civil society movements, organisations and associations.

The Sixth World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference: (13-18 December 2005, Hong Kong, China) and its follow-up: FOCSIV participated as member of the Italian Delegation. Besides, as Italian member of CIDSE (Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité), FOCSIV submitted a CIDSE – Caritas Internationalis position paper "Make a difference for poverty reduction" and participated at the meetings held with the Permanent Representative of the Holy See and ambassadors to the World Trade Organisation in Geneva and other government representatives on preparation of the Ministerial Conference and to the following workshops organised to increase the knowledge of Southern civil society on issues related to the Agreement on Agriculture, such as subsidies, Special Products, Special Safeguarding Mechanisms, and commodity problems.

The International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development: (7-10 March 2006, Porto Alegre, Brazil). On the occasion of this international meeting, FOCSIV attended the "Land, Territory and Dignity Forum" promoted by the International Non Governmental Organisations/Civil Society organisations Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (6-9 March 2006, Porto Alegre, Brazil). FOCSIV lobbied presenting its proposals from the perspective of food sovereignty on issues related to Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

iii) Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

In 2005 FOCSIV carried on the "**International Campaign on Millennium Development Goals**", to promote and inform interested organizations about what are the Millennium Development Goals, how they will be achieved and what civil society can do.

In 2005 FOCSIV launched the National Campaign: "**Target 2015: Trade and Food sovereignty**" financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, always inspired by the Millennium Development Goals Campaign.

Goal 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: In 2005, FOCSIV participated at the CIDSE (Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité) joint campaign "**Keep Our Word, Make Poverty History**". Time is running out! was the key message at the launch of the worldwide campaign 12 January 2005 at the World Social Forum, in Porto Alegre, Brazil. A giant version of a postcard sent by people all over the world to Tony Blair was unveiled at the launch. The Bishop of Sao Paulo, Don Demetrio Valentini and the well-known Brazilian theologian, Leonardo Boff, were among the first to sign the postcard.